

The Caledonian.

St. Johnsbury, Thursday, Feb. 13, 1890

LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA.

Dear Caledonian: You and many of your readers know something of rainy days in California during the winter months, but not in nearly thirty years have the rains fallen so continuously and so heavily as during the present season. In this vicinity about twelve inches fell up to Feb. 1st in the season of '88 and '89. This winter up to date about thirty-eight inches have fallen. Much early sown grain has been drowned out. Little plowing has been done, and all ground plowed early in the season has become so packed as to require replowing when the ground becomes dry enough. The Sacramento river has burst its levees in several places and wide-spread damage has resulted. The railroads in the southern part of the state have been washed away in places. San Diego was without railroad communication with the outside world for a week or more and all California from Siskiyou to San Diego has longed for her accustomed sunshine.

And now, to make our faces longer, the snow has taken possession of the Sierra Nevadas and for two weeks has held high carnival, blockading the railroad tracks, filling up the deep cuts, crushing the snow sheds, and holding train load after train load of passengers prisoners.

We have just come into possession of our first Eastern mails for two weeks, and we feel like Micronesian missionaries when the Morning Star arrives.

But perils of snow are not all that beset the travelers by rail. Our friends, Rev. and Mrs. H. W. Jones, who so recently enjoyed a visit among old friends at St. Johnsbury, had a narrow escape from death on the rail on their Western journey, as you have already learned. We were thankful to receive our friends, in comfortable health, after such experiences by the way.

All our storms in California are tedious to endure, but they give promise of abundant harvests in fruit and good harvests in late sown grain. Mining operations and lumber interests in the mountains will be facilitated also.

For months our fields have been green. Already our almond buds are bursting, and our bedraggled flowers insist on blooming. The influenza denigrates with most of its subjects although more than the usual death rate prevails.

I am sure I but express the sentiments of all your Pacific Coast readers in congratulating your junior editor, whose cup of happiness runneth over. Yours Truly,

H. E. JEWETT.

Vacaville, Cal., Jan. 28, 1890.

LETTER FROM TALLAPOOSA.

I would not have the readers of the Caledonian think me a "boomer" for I detest the title; but I cannot refrain from saying a word about the beautiful and healthful attractions of Tallapoosa, Georgia. I left Boston, Jan. 21, for Fort Payne, Ala., where I spent several days. I also visited Birmingham, Attalla, Anniston and other new and thriving towns of Alabama. I also visited New England City, Dade county, Ga., before coming to Tallapoosa. Jan. 31st at 3.30 a. m. I stepped upon the platform of a neat depot and with other gentlemen walked a short distance to a hotel. One gentleman said, is not this air fine? Two or three answered "yes." I said almost without thinking, "I like this," and so I have kept breathing it and have kept liking it and I weigh five pounds more than when I came, but five pounds is not much to gain. But a word more of my experience, my throat is not sore here and my head feels clear.

I have talked with many who came here for health, and everyone tells me the same, "I have been cured," or "I have been benefited." But one does not need to depend upon the "say so" of others. I saw at once that the elevation is good; that the city is surrounded by long leaved pine forests; that the natural drainage is perfect; the water, unlike the limestone valleys of Alabama, is pure of freestone, and the atmosphere all one can desire. I have seen today gardens and fruit trees as far advanced as they are in June in Vermont. And a correct record shows that it is never as hot here in summer as in New England. So well pleased am I with the business prospects that I have purchased real estate here and today begun a house which I intend to call home when my family are here. I wish every reader of this, the first letter I ever wrote for publication, would come to Tallapoosa. But don't all come at once.

As I have said I am not a "boomer." I did not expect to ever be in Georgia two months ago. I do not expect any pay for this, unless the Caledonian sends me a small check saying, "Write no more—your last is passed into the waste basket." But before coming away I was asked by many to give them my opinion of this part of the country, and to save writing many letters I address these friends through the columns of your paper. G. A. WHITCER.

Belfast, Maine, has one genuine philanthropist. An aged gentleman, possessed of a goodly amount of this world's goods, delights in befriending the poor. He buys largely of clothing, fabrics, etc., which he quietly bestows upon those needing such things. It is said that his donations amount to many hundreds of dollars in the course of the winter.

THE WRECKING OF A BANK.

The wrecking of the Sixth National bank of New York and the consequent downfall of two smaller state banks, illustrate, in a way as startling as it is disagreeable, the rapidity and completeness with which, despite our carefully drawn banking laws, the property of stockholders and depositors of a bank may be ruthlessly sacrificed when once it comes under the control of greedy and unprincipled officers. In this case the method of wrecking was as novel as it was bold. The president of the bank was induced to part with his stock, he holding a controlling amount, at a high price, to a set of men who seem to have deliberately planned to appropriate the bank's funds. Not having capital enough to pay for the stock, they persuaded smaller banks which they controlled to falsely certify checks. As soon as Mr. Leland, the former president, received his price for the stock, he turned over securities to a large amount to the new president, Claassen, who promptly handed over all these securities to his confederate, a broker named Pell, who at once sold or pledged them, and used part of the proceeds to cover the checks paid to Mr. Leland. What became of the balance is what the courts must determine. When the bank examiner, learning these facts, took possession of the bank and demanded the return of the securities, he was handed, instead, worthless checks drawn by the confederates on the smaller banks, which at once refused payment and suspended. Opinions differ as to the responsibility of Mr. Leland in the matter, many holding that the circumstances were such as should have awakened his suspicions that his action imperiled the interests of his fellow-stockholders; but it is quite clear from his subsequent course that he was not in actual collusion with the wreckers, for he has since come forward and guaranteed the depositors from loss. As to Claassen and Pell, no question exists about their intentions, and they are at present in prison with Ives and Stayner. Through Mr. Leland's provision and the service of five banks, which have been guaranteed from loss by Mr. Leland, the Sixth National has been reorganized and reopened. The entire incident suggests the danger of one man holding absolute control over a great public institution, and the responsibility of men so placed to assure themselves of the integrity as well as the business "smartness" of those with whom they hold large dealings.—[Christian Union.]

SCOLDING IS NEVER IN ORDER.

Many a father who will not strike his child feels free to scold him. And a scolding mother is not always deemed the severest and most unjust of mothers. Yet, while it is sometimes right to strike a child, it is at no time right to scold one. Scolding is, in fact, never in order, in dealing with a child, or in any other duty of life. Scolding is always an expression of a bad spirit and of a loss of temper.

If a child has done wrong, a child needs talking to; but no parent ought to talk to a child while that parent is unable to talk in a natural tone of voice, and with carefully measured words. If the parent is tempted to speak rapidly, or to multiply words without stopping to weigh them, or to show an excited state of feeling, the parent's first duty is to gain entire self-control. Until that control is secured, there is no use of the parent's trying to do any measure of child-training. The loss of self-control is for the time being an utter loss of power for the control of others. This is as true in one sphere as in another.

An admirable work on "Dog-Training" says on this very point, to the dog-trainer: "You must keep perfectly cool, and must suffer no sign to escape of any anger or impatience; for if you cannot control your temper, you are not the one to train a dog." "Do not allow yourself," says this instructor, "under any circumstances to speak to your pupil in anything but your ordinary tone of voice." And, recognizing the difficulties of the case, he adds: "Exercise an unwearied patience; and if at any time you find the strain upon your nerves growing a little tense, leave him at once, and wait until you are perfectly calm before resuming the lesson." That is good counsel for him who would train a dog—or a child; for in either dog-training or child-training, scolding—loud and excited talking—is never in order.

In giving commands, or in giving censure to a child, the fewer and the more calmly spoken words the better. A child soon learns that scolding means less than quiet talking; and he even comes to find a certain satisfaction in waiting silently until the scolder has blown off the surplus feeling which vents itself in this way. There are times, indeed, when words may be multiplied to advantage in explaining to a child the nature and consequences of his offense, and the reasons why he should do differently in the future; but such words should always be spoken in gentleness, and in self-controlled earnestness. Scolding, rapidly spoken censure and protest in the exhibit of strong feeling, is never in order as a means of training and directing a child.

Most parents, even the gentler and kinder parents, scold their children more or less. Rarely can a child say, "My parents never scold me." Many a child is well trained in spite of his being scolded. Many a parent is a good parent notwithstanding the fact that he scolds his children. But no child is ever helped or benefited by

any scolding he receives, and no parent ever benefits his child by scolding nor yet those who are its outside observers, however it may give physical relief to the one who indulges in it. If, therefore, scolding is an unavoidable necessity on the part of any parent, let that parent at once shut himself, or herself, up in a room where the scolding can be indulged in without harming any one. But let it be remembered that, as an element in child-training, scolding is never, never, in order.—[Sunday School Times.]

GOOD DEEDS.

A firm of New York architects has just finished the plans and specifications of another building for the Children's Aid society. This building is the gift of two charitable ladies who expressly stipulated in making the gift that their names should not be made public. The building will cost \$47,000 and will accommodate 300 children.

Mme. Carnot, wife of the French president, made 400 poor children happy on Christmas day. Each received a savings bank book with a \$10 deposit.

Sister Rose Gertrude of the Roman Catholic order of St. Dominic intends to follow in Father Damien's footsteps and devote her life to the lepers. Her real name is Amy Fowler, and she is a native of Bath, England. She has worked under Pasteur for relief of the dog-bitten in Europe. Sister Rose will take out with her to the Pacific a large contribution of comforts and necessities from charitable persons for the lepers of Molokai.

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EXCURSIONS.

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